

## Federal Housing Finance Board

## § 908.31

(ii) In the case of U.S. Postal Service or reliable commercial overnight delivery service, or first class, registered, or certified mail, upon deposit in or delivery to an appropriate point of collection; or

(iii) In the case of transmission by electronic media, as specified by the authority receiving the filing in the case of filing, and as agreed among the parties in the case of service.

(2) The effective filing and service dates specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section may be modified by the Finance Board or the presiding officer in the case of filing or by agreement of the parties in the case of service.

(c) *Calculation of time for service and filing of responsive papers.* Whenever a time limit is measured by a prescribed period from the service of any notice or paper, the applicable time limits shall be calculated as follows:

(1) If service was made by first class, registered, or certified mail, or by delivery to the U.S. Postal Service for longer than overnight delivery service, add three (3) calendar days to the prescribed period for the responsive filing.

(2) If service was made by U.S. Postal Service or reliable commercial overnight delivery service, add one (1) calendar day to the prescribed period for the responsive filing.

(3) If service was made by electronic media transmission, add one (1) calendar day to the prescribed period for the responsive filing, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors or the presiding officer in the case of filing, or by agreement among the parties in the case of service.

### § 908.28 Change of time limits.

Except as otherwise provided by law, the presiding officer may, for good cause shown, extend the time limits prescribed above or prescribed by any notice or non-dispositive order issued under this part. After the referral of the case to the Board of Directors pursuant to § 908.63, the Board of Directors may grant extensions of the time limits for good cause shown. Extensions may be granted on the motion of a party after notice and opportunity to respond is afforded all nonmoving parties, or on the Board of Directors' or the presiding officer's own motion.

### § 908.29 Witness fees and expenses.

Witnesses (other than parties) subpoenaed for testimony or depositions shall be paid the same fees for attendance and mileage as are paid to witnesses pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (title 28 of the U.S. Code) governing proceedings in the United States district courts, in which the United States is a party, provided that, in the case of a discovery subpoena addressed to a party, no witness fees or mileage shall be paid. Fees for witnesses shall be tendered in advance by the party requesting the subpoena, except that fees and mileage need not be tendered in advance where the Finance Board is the issuer of the subpoena. The Finance Board shall not be responsible for or required to pay any fees to or expenses of any witness not subpoenaed by the Finance Board.

### § 908.30 Settlement or other dispute resolution.

Any respondent may, at any time in a cease and desist or civil money penalty proceeding, unilaterally submit to the Finance Board's counsel of record written offers or proposals for settlement of such proceeding in whole or in part without prejudice to the rights of any of the parties. Any such offer or proposal shall be made exclusively to the Finance Board. Submission of a written settlement offer does not provide a basis for adjourning or otherwise delaying all or any portion of a proceeding under this part. Any party to a proceeding under this part may request a neutral individual preside over settlement negotiations. No settlement offer or proposal, or any subsequent negotiation or resolution, is admissible as evidence in any proceeding under this part or any court.

### § 908.31 Right to supervise the Banks.

Nothing contained in this part shall limit in any manner the right of the Finance Board to conduct any examination, inspection, or visitation of any Bank, or the right of the Finance Board to conduct or continue any form of investigation authorized by law. Nothing set forth in this part shall restrict or be deemed to restrict the authority of the Finance Board to supervise the Banks or to issue or enforce

orders or directives pursuant to section 2B(a)(1), or any other provision, of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1422b(a)(1)).

**§ 908.32 Collateral attacks on proceedings under this part.**

If a respondent files in any court a collateral attack that purports to challenge all or any portion of a proceeding under this part, the hearing on the merits shall continue without regard to the pendency of any such challenge action. No default or other failure to act as directed in the hearing within the times prescribed in this subpart shall be excused based on the pendency of any such challenge action.

**§§ 908.33–908.39 [Reserved]**

**Subpart D—Pre-Hearing Proceedings**

**§ 908.40 Commencement of proceeding and contents of notices.**

Proceedings under this part are commenced by the issuance of a notice of charges or a notice of assessment of a civil money penalty (notice). A notice that is served by the Finance Board upon a respondent in accordance with § 908.7 shall state all of the following:

- (a) The legal authority for the proceeding and for the Finance Board's jurisdiction over the proceeding;
- (b) A statement of the matters of fact or law showing that the Finance Board is entitled to relief;
- (c) A proposed order or prayer for an order granting the requested relief;
- (d) The time, place and nature of the hearing;
- (e) The time within which to file an answer;
- (f) The time within which to request a hearing; and
- (g) The address for filing the answer and/or request for a hearing.

**§ 908.41 Answer.**

(a) *Deadline for filing answer.* Unless otherwise specified by the Finance Board in the notice, respondent shall file an answer within twenty (20) days of service of the notice.

(b) *Content of answer.* An answer shall respond specifically to each paragraph or allegation of fact contained in the notice and must admit, deny, or state

that the party lacks sufficient information to admit or deny each allegation of fact. A statement of lack of information has the effect of a denial. Denials must fairly meet the substance of each allegation of fact denied; general denials are not permitted. When a respondent denies part of an allegation, that part must be denied and the remainder specifically admitted. Any allegation of fact in the notice that is not denied in the answer is deemed admitted for purposes of the proceeding. A respondent is not required to respond to the portion of a notice that constitutes the prayer for relief or proposed order. The answer shall set forth affirmative defenses, if any, asserted by the respondent.

(c) *Default.* Failure of a respondent to file an answer required by this section within the time provided constitutes a waiver of such respondent's right to appear and contest the allegations in the notice. If no timely answer is filed, the Finance Board's counsel of record may file a motion for entry of an order of default. Upon a finding that no good cause has been shown for the failure to file a timely answer, the presiding officer shall file with the Board of Directors a recommended decision containing the findings and the relief sought in the notice. Any final order issued by the Board of Directors based upon a respondent's failure to answer shall be deemed to be an order issued upon consent.

**§ 908.42 Amended pleadings.**

(a) *Amendments.* The notice or answer may be amended or supplemented by the Finance Board prior to the scheduling conference held in accordance with § 908.53, or at any stage of the proceeding with the permission of the presiding officer for good cause shown. The respondent must answer an amended notice within the time remaining for the respondent's answer to the original notice, or within ten (10) days after service of the amended notice, whichever period is longer, unless the Board of Directors or the presiding officer orders otherwise for good cause shown.

(b) *Amendments to conform to the evidence.* When issues not raised in the notice or answer are tried at the hearing